

benefits from the Technology Mission. It should be clarified. The hon. Minister is saying it is not an oilseed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Sir, please tell the hon. Minister to clarify. Coconut is an oilseed, recognised by the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, the former Minister of Agriculture has assured the House and informed that Coconut has been included as an oilseed and benefits thereon will be given. Now the hon. Minister is saying to the contrary to the earlier decision of the Government. I demand a statement from the hon. Minister clarifying the position whether coconut is included as an oilseed or not. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, I am not satisfied with the answer. My specific question is whether coconut has been declared as an oilseed and whether benefits will be extended or not. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, it seems the hon. Members are not satisfied with the answer. So, kindly inform whether it is included as oilseed and if so whether the benefits are extended to coconut or not. That is all.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. The Minister will inform the Members about the specific questions raised by Shri Mullappally Ramachandran later.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, it is a treeborn oilseed. There are certain oilseeds which are treeborn oilseeds.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, Mr. Minister, that is not the point. You can inform them later about the position.

... *(Interruptions)*

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Sir, this is a very important question regarding coconut. The Government has already declared it as an oilseed. Now the Minister is saying it is not so. I want to know which is correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have only one minute left. The hon. Minister will inform you.

I have called Shri N.S.V. Chitthan. I request the hon. Minister to take his seat.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Sir, it is clear from Annexure-II that groundnut is being grown in all the States except the hilly States like Manipur and Meghalaya. The groundnut crop yields good returns and it is a boon to agriculturists especially in the South. Unlike paddy and wheat, groundnut can be cultivated with less irrigation and it is mostly produced in rainfed areas. When compared to other seed varieties the hybrid varieties in groundnuts are not being introduced remarkably. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will make further tangible researches and introduce effective hybrid varieties to improve the production of groundnuts to meet the needs of the nation?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, this is a very important question whether it is in Tamil Nadu or in some southern States. We can have enough of this. But what is needed is some water and sufficient number of sprinklers should be provided. Last year we could not cope up with it with the budgetary provisions. It was so not only in Tamil Nadu but also in States like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. They demanded more sprinklers. But the budgetary amount was not such that we could have provided them all. That is the main reason why I am not able to do that. As regards the research of hybrid varieties we are trying for it. ...*(Interruptions)*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Flood and Natural Calamities

*84. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the floods and natural calamities situations during 1997;

(b) if so, the details of States badly affected as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also assessed the loss of life and property;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total amount of loss incurred thereby, State-wise;

(e) whether the Union Government have received any Memoranda/detailed Memoranda from the State Governments on the floods and natural calamities;

- (f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (g) whether any relief and rehabilitation measures have been undertaken in those States;
- (h) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (i) whether the State Governments have requested any Central aid from the Government in this regard;
- (j) if so, the total amount released so far by the Government for the relief measures, State-wise; and
- (k) the specific steps taken by the Government to deal with such situations?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (k) According to reports received from the State Governments, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh were affected by hailstorm during March-April, 1997. Heavy rains and floods during the South-West Monsoon affected parts of nine States, namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal in varying degrees. Parts of Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal were affected by land slides also. Jabalpur and surrounding areas of Madhya Pradesh were hit by an earthquake of medium intensity on 22nd May, 1997.

2. Government of India and the State Governments undertake long term programmes to mitigate the adverse impacts of natural calamities. However, the State Governments carry out immediate rescue and relief measures like evacuation of stranded population, air dropping of food packets, operation of relief camps, health and veterinary centres, distribution of gratuitous relief and providing financial assistance to the affected people. For this purpose, a State Calamity Relief Fund (SCRF) has been constituted with an allocation of Rs. 6304.27 crores for the period 1995-96 to 1999-2000 according to the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission. *Statement-I* indicating the State-wise allocations of SCRF is enclosed. The contribution to SCRF is in the ratio of 75 : 25 by Central Government and State Government respectively. The annual central share of the SCRF is released to the State Governments in four equal quarterly

instalments in order to enable them to respond immediately in the wake of natural calamities. The States can also draw these quarterly instalments in advance, if required.

3. In the event of a calamity of rare severity, Government of India provide additional assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) after the assessment of the damage by a Central Team. National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC) decides on the quantum of assistance from the NFCR on the basis of the reports of Central Teams. The NFCR has a corpus of Rs. 700.00 crore for the period 1995-2000 (Rs. 140.00 crore annually) out of which Rs. 539.00 crore has already been released. Assistance from other Ministries such as Rural Areas and Employment, Urban Affairs & Employment, Surface Transport, Health and Family Welfare, etc. is also extended to States.

4. Two instalments of central share of State Calamity Relief Fund have been released to all the State Governments during the financial year 1997-98. Advance releases from the SCRF have also been made to the States of Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Sikkim. *Statement-II* indicating the extent of damage reported by the State Governments due to natural calamities during 1997 and the funds released from the SCRF during 1997-98 is enclosed.

5. Memoranda have been received during the current financial year from the following States seeking additional assistance from the NFCR:

S. No.	State	Calamity	Funds sought (Rs. in crores)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hailstorm	82.11
2.	Gujarat	Floods	664.33
3.	Kerala	Floods	1106.26
4.	Madhya Pradesh	Earthquake	230.77
5.	Sikkim	Landslides	107.39

6. On the basis of the decision taken by the NCRC, Rs. 45.26 crores have been released to Government of

Madhya Pradesh as additional assistance from the NCFR for relief and reconstruction measures in the earthquake affected areas. Central teams have concluded their visits to Gujarat and Sikkim and on the basis of their reports, the NCRC will shortly decide the additional assistance if any for these States. The memorandum from Kerala has just been received and a Central Team will visit the State shortly.

7. In addition to the financial assistance for relief and rehabilitation being provided to the State Governments, Govt. of India also takes the following measures to mitigate the impact of natural calamities:

- (i) Every year well before the onset of monsoon in a conference of State Relief Commissioners the disaster preparedness measures are assessed.
- (ii) A Crop Contingency Plan has been prepared and has been circulated to the States for

responding to different types of weather conditions. On the basis of this Plan the State Governments have formulated specific Contingency Plans.

- (iii) A Crop Weather Watch Group in the Ministry of Agriculture monitors the rainfall pattern and crop situation.
- (iv) A Crisis Management Group in the Ministry of Agriculture monitors immediate response measures in the wake of natural calamities.
- (v) The Ministry of Agriculture have established a National Centre for Disaster Management at the Centre and have funded faculties on Natural Disaster Management at the State Level Training Institutes/Universities for upgrading skills for disaster management and for promoting community awareness.

Statement I

Calamity Relief Fund for 1995-2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total 1995-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11721	12419	13105	13773	14359	65377
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	664	704	743	781	813	3705
3.	Assam*	4720	5001	5277	5547	5783	26328
4.	Bihar	4904	5196	5483	5763	6007	27353
5.	Goa	101	107	113	119	124	564
6.	Gujarat	13176	13960	14731	15483	16140	73430
7.	Haryana	2365	2505	2644	2779	2897	13190
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2544	2695	2844	2989	3116	14188

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1860	1971	2079	2184	2279	10374
10.	Karnataka	3949	4185	4416	4641	4839	22030
11.	Kerala	5229	5540	5847	6144	6405	29165
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4821	5108	5389	5665	5905	26888
13.	Maharashtra	6437	6820	7197	7564	7885	35903
14.	Manipur	235	248	261	275	287	1306
15.	Meghalaya	263	279	295	309	323	1469
16.	Mizoram	120	127	133	140	147	667
17.	Nagaland	160	171	180	188	196	895
18.	Orissa	4625	4901	5172	5436	5667	25801
19.	Punjab	5111	5415	5715	6005	6261	28507
20.	Rajasthan	16899	17904	18893	19856	20700	94252
21.	Sikkim	444	471	497	523	544	2479
22.	Tamil Nadu	5602	5935	6263	6583	6863	31245
23.	Tripura	424	449	475	499	520	2367
24.	Uttar Pradesh	11809	12512	13203	13876	14467	65867
25.	West Bengal	4844	5132	5416	5692	5933	27017
Total		113026	119755	126371	132815	138460	630427

Statement-II

*Extent of Damage as Reported by the States in the Wake of Natural Calamities During 1997
and Funds Released from the Calamity Relief Fund During 1997-98*

A. Heavy rains, floods, landslides and hailstorm

S. No.	State	District Affected (Nos.)	Villages Affected (Nos.)	Damage to Crops (Lakh Hectare)	Population Affected (Lakh)	Damage To Houses (Nos.)	Human Lives Lost (Nos.)	Central Share of CRF Released During 1997-98 (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16	1733	1.00		1147	60	49.145
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		5				8	2.785
3.	Assam	17	3474	1.06	25.58	4770	13	19.790
4.	Bihar	15	3687	4.60	34.03	88523	41	20.560
5.	Gujarat	17	2125	1.98		102220	191	82.860
6.	Haryana	15	339	0.48				9.915
7.	Karnataka	11		0.05		1641	66	16.560
8.	Kerala	14	941	0.46	54.00	14292	131	32.888
9.	Madhya Pradesh	5	169					40.420
10.	Maharashtra	17					64	26.990
11.	Punjab	6	159	0.08				21.430
12.	Sikkim	3				3000	67	2.798
13.	Uttar Pradesh	14	1373	0.19	2.47	609	30	49.510
14.	West Bengal	3			1.17	2000		20.310
Total:		153	14005	9.90	117.25	218202	671	395.961

B. Earthquake

	Madhya Pradesh	16	1792		13.40	165668	39	40.420
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